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**Title**

How many universities are there in the United Kingdom? : how many should there be?

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**Abstract**

While the first of the questions posed in the title of this article may seem to involve a simple matter of enumeration, it is more complex than that, as the number of institutions in the United Kingdom that perform at least some of the functions of a university has grown significantly in recent years. The answer given (for the end of the year 2010) is 108, 138 or 162, depending upon the definitions adopted. The second question involves more judgement, and is explored comparatively?both within the United Kingdom and internationally?geographically, economically and historically. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Tight, Malcolm, E-Mail: m.tight@lancaster.ac.uk